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EOC Spot Report: Chemical Spill, Charleston WV – Update #1

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 2330 January 9, 2014

Overview: Earlier today there was a chemical spill from the Freedom Industries plant. The spilled chemical was methylcyclohexane, which is reportedly used in coal preparation and processing. The spill went into the Elk River sometime earlier in the day and there was an early report of an odor. The Governor of WV has declared a state of emergency for at least several counties. The Kanawha Valley Water Treatment Plant detected the chemical even after the increased carbon treatment effort was put in place.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: WV issued an order to not drink cook or bathe in the water, which affects approximately 100,000 people. WV is conducting additional water sampling. The Civil Support Team has been reported to be deployed to the WV EOC to assist in supplying water to residents.

EPA Actions: An EPA OSC Is deploying to the WV EOC. The estimated time of arrival is tomorrow morning. EPA also has been in contact with FEMA Region 3 which has activated its RRCC for this event. FEMA has requested an EPA representative to work at their RRCC. EPA Region 3 is handling that request.

Media Interest: High

The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provided updates as needed.

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Tim Grier, Watch Officer U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters Emergency Operations Center 1200 Pennsylvania Ave Washington, DC 20004 202-564-3850 202-564-8729 (fax)

mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov